

there is one intended for a line of sines, one an elliptical line, two parabolic lines, two arcs of circles, and three conchoidal lines.

Then, Mr. Penrose's researches in Greece led him to propose the "hyperbola," which has many beautiful properties Mr. Penrose can well describe; yet, although it may be the nearest possible approximation to the entasis of the Parthenon, it cannot be drawn with the facility and accuracy that either the conchoidal line or elliptical line is susceptible of; and Mr. Penrose's long and careful investigations enabled him at once to appreciate the elliptical method, when I pointed it out to him; and in actual practice he will be able, I doubt not, to value it still more.

The conchoidal principle of finding points in the curve and drawing against a bent lath, was followed at the British Museum; and it would be interesting to know what it cost to prepare and keep the rules moderately in approximate order, during the progress of the works.

It is, perhaps, not to be wondered at that architects, who have not seen true lines of delicate curvature of distinctly different characters, have not been able to appreciate them as they deserve. If, however, any architect who doubts the æsthetic effect of such delicate variation, would once make the attempt on a good-sized scale, and produce accurately a drawing of a single column with flutes, either with elliptical or conchoidal entasis, the instruction his eyes would thus receive would enable him to distinguish and appreciate the most delicate true curvature, when appropriately applied.

After having produced such an example, if he still doubts, let him substitute a right line, or any other curved line, for one of the lines representing the flutes.

J. JOPLING.

#### GREENWICH BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES.

THE style of the design by Mr. Ritchie, selected by the committee, is that of the time of James, and was set forth in a pretty perspective view, which doubtless helped the plan. The arrangement of the plan, which is supposed to admit of one money-taker sufficing for the whole establishment, weighed greatly with the committee,—more, we think, than it will justify in practice. We cannot suppose that this design will be carried out for the sum stipulated, 5,000*l*.

A set marked *Pro Bono Publico*, Italian in style, seemed to us well arranged, and with a satisfactory aspect of completeness. A design marked *Pro Grege a Lege*, presented the peculiarity of circular washhouses, the tubs placed around the enclosing wall, the partitions radiating.

One set of plans marked F. F. were withdrawn by their author before the exhibition; these were evidently the work of one acquainted with the subject.

Mr. W. Smith, of Greenwich, not being a competitor, was called in to assist in the selection, but we do not hear that his recommendation was adopted.

#### RÉVIVAL OF OBSOLETE PARTS IN NEW CHURCHES.

YOUR pages lately stated that a new church in the diocese of Gloucester and Bristol was about to be consecrated by the bishop of that see, and that the church contained a piscina, &c., applicable only to the Roman Catholic service. Now in the restoration of our old churches these obsolete parts might well be omitted, but in the construction of a new church it approaches to a superstitious admiration of the ceremonies of another church, and I fear with some it shows a desire for the return of such services. It is not for me (a humble churchman) to point out to our hierarchy their duties, but I do suggest that some respect should be paid to us Protestants by confining the construction of our churches to the requirements only of Protestants. I am further led to make this remark by the comments made by Mr. Pugin on "J. F.'s" communication. "J. F." referred to our parish churches. Mr. Pugin's remarks are more applicable to those for celebrating the Roman Catholic religion, as I conjecture, that had he meant to refer to those for the Protestant, he

would not have expatiated so much on the visible symbols of a religion which, to be practised aright, requires no such adjuncts. I fear that if these very zealous effusions are further indulged in, we shall have the elevation of the rood in our churches advocated, merely because it existed formerly; we have already the screen introduced, although I am unaware of the necessity of dividing the chancel from the body of the church; as minister and congregation should be as one in assembling themselves together, to join in the worship of God.

W. B.

#### THE SELECTED PLANS FOR THE DRAINAGE OF THE METROPOLIS.

I HAVE found you so kindly considerate of desert, that I am induced to request you to use your influence to secure for those competitors who were honourably signalled and mentioned in the recent report of the Commissioners of Sewers some substantial memento of the fact. There were five designs distinguished by special approval. Of these five, two (the 4th and 5th) were the proposals of Messrs. Phillips and Austin, who were officers of the Sewers Commission, and in receipt of salaries at the time of the competition. I think you will consider that Mr. McClean and the other two competitors,—who, it is evident from the terms of the commissioners' remarks, gave considerable attention to the subject,—should receive some pecuniary reward, or a medal, or some other tangible proof by which they may feel themselves paid for the time they devoted to the matter. This would only place them in the same position as Messrs. Phillips and Austin, who were receiving the public money. Any further mark of approval the commissioners may think due both to the first and second class of competitors, of course would be gratefully received, but it is quite clear that something more is due to Mr. McClean and those gentlemen who stood before the officers of the commission.

C. E.

We supposed it fully understood that the authors of the selected plans would be rewarded: that they should be there can be no question.

#### NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

To the restoration or rebuilding of Halstead Church, now rapidly rising from its old ruins into a new state of existence, has been added the tower, which it has been found absolutely necessary to pull down and re-erect. The means are being collected, and the work of demolition is in progress.—The restoration of St. Peter's, Northampton, according to the local *Herald*, is now likely to be begun forthwith on the plans proposed, doubling the accommodation: 600*l*. are still wanted for the interior work.—At a meeting of the Leicester Board of Guardians the following tenders were accepted for the new workhouse:—Smith, bricklayer, &c., 10,967*l*; Lindley and Firm, stonemasons, 1,148*l*; Richards, ironfounder, 2,940*l*; Catlin, plumber and glazier, 1,635*l*; Hitchcock, painter, 136*l*. Total, 19,911*l*. Old materials, estimated by Mr. Parsons at 3,500*l*.—The Leicester lodging-houses of the lowest class have recently undergone great improvement, under the bye-laws of the local board of health, and fever, in consequence, has been banished for several months.

—The erection of a new church at Swindon is to be immediately commenced.—The Cardiff council have resolved, says *Felix Farley*, to complete the front of the new town-hall, on the original plan of Mr. H. Jones, architect.

—A monument of Carrara marble, laid on a Galway black marble basis, has been put up in Heaton Chapel, to the memory of a Mr. Travis, schoolmaster at Heaton Norris for more than forty years. It is in the Pointed style, and was wrought by Mr. Latham, of Stockport.—In less than a month the Sunderland new docks will be ready for occupation. A sailor's home and Bethel chapel are to be erected close by.—It is proposed to erect a suitable building at Halthwaite, for the Mechanic's Institution there.—The contract for Sir John Barrow's monument on the Hill of Hoed, Ulverstone, has been let to Messrs. Brocklebanks, who have commenced the work.—John Knor's house at Edin-

burgh having been thoroughly repaired, all legal proceedings for its removal have been stayed.—At the Liver Theatre, in Liverpool, which is to be opened in May as a ladies' drapery, &c., establishment! the front is to have plate-glass in the windows of the three stories, each square in the ground story being 13 feet by 5 feet, in one piece. The architect in charge of the alterations is Mr. Gribbon, formerly of Mr. Donaldson's office.

#### THE "PROVIDENT INSTITUTION OF BUILDERS' FOREMEN."

##### ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

THE foremen who are members and supporters of this benevolent society for giving "relief to aged and infirm members and their widows and orphans," met in the large room of the London Tavern, on Wednesday evening, in convivial union with their employers and patrons,—amongst a goodly number of whom, around the Chairman, Mr. William Cubitt, M.P., and the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Lee, were Professor Cockerell, Mr. George Rennie, Mr. Kendall, Mr. Douthorne, Mr. Samuel Pocock, Mr. Barnett, Mr. Haward, Mr. Piper, Mr. T. Piper, Mr. Glenn, Mr. Trego, Mr. Davison, Mr. Clark, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Greaves, Mr. Nye, Mr. Cooper, &c., &c. In all, probably upwards of 150 gentlemen sat down to a substantial dinner and its accompaniments; after doing justice to which, and expending a little of the rich fund of loyalty and constitutional principle with which one and all appeared to be endued, the chairman gave the toast of the evening, 'a bumper,' as the toast-master of course insisted on its being, and reviewed the progress of the institution from its tender infancy, when its friends in need were friends indeed; to the present time, when it appeared to be so well supported, that he had to congratulate the members on their prospects. There were probably upwards of 1,000 builders' foremen in the metropolis, and the first object of this institution was to bring these into communication for their mutual benefit. This they desired to do, however, with careful inquiry into the character and capabilities of the candidates, so that the admitted members might do credit to the institution, which, on the other hand, was to be ever after solicitous to aid him in his employment, in his physical infirmities, in his old age, and in the persons of his widow and his orphans after his death. Some of the class to which this institution belonged, being in good employment, and provident, would provide themselves for these contingencies, and not require assistance from such an institution, but all were not so highly favoured, and builders' foremen, like other men, were liable, and even more likely in some respects than many, to become disabled, as well as like other men to become old: to lend a helping hand to such as these, who required its aid, was the laudable object of this benevolent society, to support and countenance which they had all there met.

The Secretary, Mr. W. Allard, then read the annual report, with an appeal to architects and builders for counsel and assistance. From this report it appeared that the society had already begun its good offices in administering succour to afflicted members, but the balance sheet showed investments of several sums, amounting in all to upwards of 300*l*.—Meantime subscription lists were rapidly filling up along the lines of table, including not a few single contributions of ten, fifteen, and twenty guineas, besides numerous donations of five and downwards; and in a short time, while the lists were still imperfect, the Chairman announced an addition to the funds of 218*l*. odds.

At the close of the report the Chairman, in an able and appropriate address, did honour in the name of the builders and foremen to the architectural and engineering professions in general, and to Professor Cockerell and Mr. George Rennie, as distinguished members respectively of these professions. To these two professions, he said, builders and builders' foremen were constantly looking up with respect and pleasure, and for instruction and support, and they felt proud to see at that table such representatives of these professions as were then present. He drew the distinction between the works of the architect and engineer, that those of the former were the production of art, with the aid of science; those of the latter were the work of science embellished by art.

Mr. Cockerell responded. His friend and he, as well as the other members of their professions present, had great pleasure in associating thus with the